An observation of predatory behaviour by a pygopodid lizard on a scorpion.—On November 20, 1979 I collected a 30 cm Black-headed Scale-footed Lizard, *Pygopus nigreps*, 30 miles west of Sandstone. It was at 9 p.m. when I caught it on the open ground and the temperature was 30°C. I kept it in a vivarium to study its feeding habits, supplying it with a varicty of other animals, including grasshoppers, moths of a range of sizes, maggots, some very small lizards, *Lerista elegans*, and a large 8 cm scorpion, *Urodacus novaehollandiae* (from Wanneroo).

One evening after the animals had been together for several days I noticed the scorpion appeared to have hold of the *Pygopus* near the snout. I quickly separated them for fear of the lizard's life. To my surprise the *Pygopus* almost immediately started scenting around in an endeavour to locate the scorpion again. When it had found it the lizard approached slowly to within 2-3 cm and then struck forward, grabbing it at a most effective spot, i.e. on one of the pedipalps, near the head. It immediately started whirling the scorpion around by rotating crocodile-like around its own axis, two or three times. This was repeated after short intervals. To test their reactions I separated the two animals five times and on each occasion the *Pygopus* wasted no time looking for the scorpion again. A dim light and numerous photo-flashes could not deter the *Pygopus* from its predatory intentions. After about 10 minutes the scorpion was completely motionless. Its body fluids were extruding from its abdomen and the *Pygopus* seemed to be licking them up. Eventually the *Pygopus* dragged the scorpion under a log.

Next morning the remains of the scorpion were found in two parts—the tail with the sting, and the carapace with part of the empty abdomen and some of the limbs. So only the chitinous parts of its body remained.

The diligent and effective way the *Pygopus* handled the scorpion, finding it again when lost (through my action) and finally killing it, appeared to be a fixed behavioural pattern rather than an isolated incident. Scorpions inhabit the same sandplain environment as the *Pygopus* and, as both are nocturnal, scorpions may well provide a food and fluid supply for the lizard.

Dr. L. E. Koch, of the W.A. Museum, reports a contrary instance of a scorpion-lizard combat *(Rec. W.A. Mus.*, 5 (2), 1977: 291). He quotes Mr. A. M. Douglas observing a *Urodacus hartmeyeri* dragging a lizard, *Tympanocryptis parviceps*, in sandhills at Point Cloates.

—G. A. PHILIPP, City Beach.

Additions to the Herpetofauna of the Shark Bay Region, Western Australia.—Since we published our paper on the frogs and reptiles of Shark Bay *(Rec. West. Aust. Mus.*, 6, 1978: 449-467) another four species of reptiles have been collected in the region.

On 24 July 1979 G. Harold and D. Knowles collected a legless lizard *Delma australis* Kluge at 42 km NE of Tamala. At the same locality they obtained a *Lerista petersoni* Storr; previously this rare skink was only known from Yinnietharra, 330 km to the north-east. On the same day they collected a blind snake *Typhlina australis* (Gray) at 1 km S of Tamala. Their field trip was supported by a generous grant from Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Butler to the Western Australian Museum.

On 29 August 1979 T. M. S. Hanlon and G. Harold collected a legless lizard *Aclys concinna* Kluge at 2 km NE of Tamala; this represents a northward extension of known range of 400 km.

Two fossorial reptiles (the *Lerista* and *Typhlina)* have thus been added to a herpetofauna that was already remarkable for its wealth of fossorial species. The Shark Bay list now stands at 13 families, 44 genera and 101 forms (96 species, five of which are represented by two subspecies).

—G. M. STORR and G. HAROLD, W.A. Museum, Perth.